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MORNING TELEGRAM · **Department of State** ACTION COPY

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Control: 17799
Rec'd: October 29, 1957 4:13 a.m.

F750009-1155 1957 OCT 29 AM

FROM: Guatemala

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 173, October 28, Midnight

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/4/75

NIACT PER Finalrev OFFICE ARA

FADRC FOI CASE NO. 58201

Reply drafted 10/29/57

Department telegram 227.

I have just received note from Foreign Minister Molina stating Flores assumed provisional presidency in accordance with constitution, that Congress will determine matters relating to succession and government will observe Guatemalan international commitments. Note makes no mention of recognition but explicitly expresses determination continue and improve existing cordial relations with countries of free world.

As to point two note gives customary written assurances.

As to point one Embassy telegram 172 tonight sets forth clearly uncertainties in situation pending action by Guatemalan Congress. Probably no reply should be made until situation is further clarified and therefore Tuesday I shall informally acknowledge receipt of note and state as requested substance has been sent to Department for its information.

If necessary we could raise question recognition due to intromission of de facto junta government. However, we must recognize such action would be tantamount to undermining already weak position of Flores Government. At same time it would encourage undue those sectors of Guatemala which are contemplating formation of military juntas whose lives presumbly would be as precarious as Flores government. We should endeavor discourage repetitive successions. Withholding our concurrence because of apparent irregular succession by Flores would not contribute that end. In these circumstances I consider that by Wednesday we should, if possible, make affirmative reply.

SPARKS

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: Amembassy GUATEMALA — DESP. NO. 284

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, — DATE: October 30, 1957

REF: F750000-1263

20 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.					
	ARA-4	RA/R-2	IRC-8	P-1	S/P-1	S/S-2	C-1 G-1
	REC'D 11/2	OTHER	CIA-12	4.514-10	Navy-3	Army-4	Air-3 OSD-

SUBJECT: Guatemalan Government Requests Continuation of Diplomatic Relati

There is enclosed a translation of the text of a note dated October 28 from Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes, giving assurances that the Provisional Government presided over by Colonel Flores Avendaño is determined to continue and improve the cordial relations existing with the countries of the free world and strictly to observe the fulfillment of international commitments undertaken by Guatemala.

Also enclosed is a copy of the Embassy's reply dated October 30

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

William B. Connett, Jr.
First Secretary

Enclosures:
As stated.

5-B-201 6/4/75
This document released to public per Fimbres ARA

WBConnett:jh:bb
REPORTER

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Page 1 of
Encl. No. Annex 1
Desp. No. 284
From Guatemala

F7500030-1081

Ministry of Foreign Relations
Republic of Guatemala
Diplomatic Section
Classification No. 246

22479

Guatemala, October 28, 1957

Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to inform you that in view of the difficult circumstances through which the country was passing with serious disturbances of the public order, the Army was obliged to assume the functions of the Executive Branch on Thursday, the 24th of October, and, to this end, designated Colonels Oscar Mendoza Azurdia, Gonzalo Yurrita Nova and Roberto Lorenzana Salazar, in order that, with the first as President and the latter two as members, they might form a Military Junta of Government which would re-establish tranquillity and order.

Once its assignment was fulfilled, the Military Junta of Government on October 26th issued a decree requesting the Congress of the Republic to name the appropriate person, in conformity with Constitutional precepts, to exercise the Presidency. The same day the Congress of the Republic, after verifying the absence of the Provisional President, Lic. Luis Arturo González, from Central American territory, approved Decree No. 1,201 by which it called Second Designate Col. Guillermo Flores Avendaño, to exercise the Presidency of the Republic provisionally. Flores Avendaño was sworn in on the same day in accordance with the law.

I am pleased to inform Your Excellency that on the 24th of this month I assumed the position of Minister of Foreign Relations in conformity with the designation of the Military Junta of Government and that I have been named to this position by the present Constitutional Government, effective today.

In communicating the foregoing to Your Excellency, with the respectful request that you bring it to the attention of your illustrious Government, I am pleased to inform you that the Constitutional exercise of the Presidency of Guatemala by the Second Designate is of a provisional character until the Congress of the Republic determines matters relating to the Presidential succession for the next Constitutional period.

I am pleased to add that it is the firm determination of the Provisional Government over which Col. Flores Avendaño presides to continue and improve the cordial relations existing with the countries of the free world and to observe strictly the fulfillment

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of international commitments entered into by the Republic.

I take this opportunity to extend to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

/s/ Adolfo Molina Orantes

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Page 1 of 2
Encl. No.
Desp. No. 934
From Guatemala

P750009-1265

No. 67

Guatemala, October 30, 1957

Excellency:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's Note No. 22479 of October 28, 1957, announcing the assumption of the office of President of Guatemala by His Excellency Guillermo Flores Avendaño, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala, and stating that the Government of Guatemala intends to fulfill its international obligations.

In view of the statements contained in Your Excellency's note under reference, my Government has instructed me to inform you that it will be pleased to resume with the Government of Guatemala the cordial relations which have so happily existed between our two countries.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Edward J. Sparks

His Excellency
Adolfo Molina Orantes,
Minister of Foreign Relations,
Guatemala

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F75C009-1171

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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DECLASSIFICATION DATE 4/15

PER Fimbres OFFICE ARA

FADRC FOI CASE NO. 5-B-201

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: October 30, 1957

SUBJECT: Colonel Cruz-Salazar's Presidential Aspirations.

RM/R File

PARTICIPANTS: Colonel José Luis Cruz-Salazar, Ambassador of Guatemala
MID - Mr. Bayard King

COPIES TO: ARA (2), OLI (2), MID, Amembassy, Guatemala

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Mr. King said that he had noticed an article in today's Diario de las Americas regarding the possible Presidential candidacy of the Ambassador. He referred to an earlier conversation with Mr. Stewart and the Ambassador on the subject, and remarked that his campaign seemed to be getting under way.

Colonel Cruz-Salazar said that the survey of his political strength in Guatemala, which he had mentioned in the earlier conversation, had not yet been completed although a messenger from Guatemala was now here in Washington with a preliminary report. He said that it had been found that he had considerable support among newspapermen, writers and radio announcers, particularly Ramon Blanco, editor of the newspaper El Imparcial, who had agreed that his newspaper would support Cruz. The workers for Cruz' candidacy were working out with this press and radio group a plan whereby a "citizens committee for Cruz-Salazar" would form and would launch a campaign to "draft" him for the presidency. In this way, the Ambassador said, he could accept without seeming to seek the nomination and could impose certain conditions upon his acceptance.

The Ambassador said he felt sure that the Archbishop of Guatemala was sympathetic toward him, and had in fact mentioned this to him in a conversation some time ago, but that his workers had not yet approached the Archbishop. He said he believed that he had a number of supporters among non-communist elements of the Partido Revolucionario, particularly a man named Ardon. If he could draw these elements from the PR to him it would give his candidacy balance and he would be able to run on a "1944-1954" platform.

Mr. King asked the Ambassador how the political orientation of the army officer

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officers seem to be taking form. The Ambassador replied that he was not yet able to tell, but that Colonel Enrique Close de Leon, who is one of his strongest supporters, was undertaking to sound out the feeling of senior army officers toward Cruz. He said he felt he had considerable support among medium-grade and junior officers, and among lower-echelon personnel of the Ministry of Defense. Mr. King asked about Colonel Urrutia of the Air Force. Colonel Cruz said that Colonel Urrutia, Chief of the Air Force, was with him "100%", and that the remainder of the Air Force was with him "90%".

The Ambassador said he wished to speak very frankly, and that the reason he had come to the Department about his candidacy was not to obtain its support nor money for his campaign, but because he felt that the Department could give him advice on the best strategy to use in the fight against communism. He said, for instance, that he would like to be told whether he should accept PR support or not, and would like to be given guidance regarding the anti-communist aspect of his campaign strategy. Mr. King said that as the Ambassador knew the Department would not support any candidate in the forthcoming campaign, but that it would consider the Ambassador's request for guidance on strategy and would determine what, if any, advice could be given him.

Mr. King asked the Ambassador about his immediate plans. Colonel Cruz-Salazar said that he now plans to go to Guatemala next week and has asked permission from the government to do so. While there, he will make an assessment of his chances and will make his final decision. He commented that at this time he felt optimistic and from what he now knew his decision would probably be to launch his candidacy. After this, he said, he would return to Washington, ask for an appointment to take leave of President Eisenhower, close out his affairs, and return to Guatemala to participate in the campaign.

BK per KBH

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